

[0057] What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
  - ejecting droplets of ink onto a substrate to form a portion of an image;
  - and
  - directing onto said portion an amount of radiation energy, said amount is based on the number of said droplets of ink.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said amount of radiation energy is based on the color of said ink
3. The method of claim 1, wherein directing onto said portion said radiation energy comprises directing infrared radiation energy.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein directing onto said portion said radiation energy comprises directing blue light radiation energy.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein directing onto said portion said radiation energy comprises directing ultraviolet radiation energy.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein directing onto said portion said radiation energy comprises directing microwave radiation energy.
7. The method of claim 1 comprising:
  - controlling a radiation unit to provide said radiation energy only to printed portions of said image.
8. A method comprising:
  - depositing droplets of ink onto a substrate to form a row of pixels comprising deposited droplets and blank spots;
  - scanning with a scanning laser beam said row of pixels; and
  - activating said laser beam only when said beam is directed onto one of said deposited droplets.
9. The method of claim 8 comprising:
  - deactivating said laser beam when said beam is directed onto one of said blank spots.

10. A method comprising:
  - ejecting droplets of ink onto a substrate to form a portion of an image;
  - and
  - directing onto said portion an amount of radiation energy, said amount is based on the color of said droplets of ink.
11. A method comprising:
  - marking a substrate with a marking material to form a portion of an image; and
  - directing onto said portion an amount of radiation energy, said amount is based on the amount of the marking material within said portion.
12. An apparatus comprising:
  - an ink jet print head to eject droplets of ink onto a substrate to form a portion of an image; and
  - a radiation unit to irradiate onto said portion an amount of radiation energy, said amount is based on the number of said droplets of ink.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said radiation unit is capable of moving with said print head
14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said radiation unit is coupled to optical fibers.
15. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:
  - a controller to control said print head and said radiation unit.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said controller is to control said radiation unit to provide said radiation energy only to printed portions of said image.
17. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said radiation unit is an infrared laser diode.
18. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said radiation unit is an assembly of small-size ultraviolet lamps.
19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said radiation unit is a laser scanner.

20. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:  
a scanning mirror to direct a laser beam onto said substrate along a row of pixels comprising deposited droplets of ink and blank spots.
21. An infrared curable ink composition for ink-jet recording comprising:  
an acrylate; and  
an infrared activated initiator.
22. The composition of claim 21 further comprising a pigment as a coloring agent.
23. The composition of claim 21, wherein said infrared activated initiator is lauroyl peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, pentanedione-peroxide, tert-amyl peroxybenzoate, 1, 1'-azobis-cyclohexane carbonitrile or any combination thereof.
24. The composition of claim 21, wherein the concentration of said infrared activated initiator is 0.2 - 7 % by weight.